

How the Farmer Got His Mail

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Before the turn of the century, the American farmer had to go to the nearest town or settlement to get his mail. This system usually worked out very well, as the farming people needed to buy supplies, and get caught up on the news of the community by talking with the townspeople, and their neighbors who were also in town for the same purposes.

In the year 1891 the Postmaster General had been making some experiments with free delivery systems in small villages. Early in his term of office, he conceived the idea that the free delivery system could be extended to small towns and farming districts without materially increasing the expense to the Postal Department. Congress appropriated ten thousand dollars for these experiments. About two hundred dollars was expended at each place. It was reported that in forty or more towns where the experiment had been in operation, it was found that the revenues of the offices had been greatly increased.

The principle underlying all this was that increased postal facilities are always followed by increased postal business and increased revenue. However, some people were not in agreement with the Postmaster General's proposed changes.

In a January, 1892 issue of the old Farm and Fireside appeared an editorial entitled:



Dorothy J. Clark

"The Free Postal Delivery System—Do The Farmers Need It?" The writer was obviously of the opinion that they did not! He stated: "A great cry goes forth at this time that the farmer wants the free delivery of his mail matter . . . What about the enormous expense . . . the sparsely settled rural districts . . . Uncle Sam cannot afford to pay a man fair wages for distributing a half dozen letters to isolated farm houses scattered over a square mile. No matter how far back a farmer lives, he wants to go to town once or twice a week, in fact he has to go, in order to do his trading, horse-shoeing, mending tools, etc., and this also brings him to the post office.

Newspaper Account.

The next month appeared another discussion of the popular subject to all farms, free rural mail delivery. The question was closely connected with the equally important one of needed rural road improvement. Some didn't seem to think that mail could be delivered to the individual farm houses unless the roads were greatly improved. The dirt roads were almost impassable during the rainy seasons, full of holes, and washed out in some sections.

One reason the farmers wanted rural mail delivery was to prevent his neighbors from reading his mail and knowing all his business. Friendly neighbors, as a matter of course, would pick up each others' mail while in town and drop it off on their way home. Postmarks and return addresses, to say nothing of easily read postcards, were obviously noted by the helpful neighbors, and he couldn't help but know his friend's business. Mail delivered by a rural carrier to one's own mailbox would prevent this.

There were at least three requirements for the first rural mail carriers . . . He must be an "old soldier," a veteran in other words, he must belong to the "right" po-

litical party, at least the one currently in power, and he must be in line for such a political plum, as this coveted position was considered to be. His job was only as secure as the political situation. When the opposite party came into power, his job was taken over by an old soldier of that political conviction. After the next election, the job might return to the ousted veteran.

Influence of War.

The Spanish-American War influenced the rural mail delivery system also. During the war the farmers were anxious to read the casualty lists in the daily newspapers, so they would make every effort to get to town. This reading

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of the daily newspapers became a habit that the farmer didn't choose to stop when the war was over. He liked the idea of being informed on a national, state and local level through the medium of the printed page. This fact contributed greatly to the establishment of rural mail delivery.

A recent issue of the Postal Service News contained an article on the history of postal cards. "Although records are hazy, John P. Charlton of Philadelphia apparently originated the idea in 1861. It is a matter of record that he was granted a copyright on it and that he turned this over to H. L. Lipman of the same city who printed and sold what he called "Lipman's Postal Cards."

"Technically, these were commercially printed post cards, not officially produced postal cards. Austria printed the first real postal cards in 1869, followed in 1870 by the German Confederation, England and Switzerland, and in 1871 by Belgium and the Netherlands."

Postal Car Authorized.

"In 1870 Postmaster General John A. Creswell called Congress' attention to the fact other nations were already producing postal cards and recommended that the United States do likewise. The bill to authorize U. S. postal cards became law in 1872, and in May, 1873—eighty-five years ago—they became available for purchase. U. S. postal cards have been printed by the Government Printing Office in Washington, D. C., since 1910. The domestic postal card became twins for the first time on October 25, 1892, when the 'double' reply cards were first issued. These are the kind with the attached duplicate postal card that the addressee tears off and uses for his reply."

The postal card still is one of the most useful means of communication in the world today, and now our Postal Service handles more

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than three and one-quarter billion each year."

Rural free mail delivery was officially established in 1896 and the service stands pretty much today as it was then. Instead of horse and buggy, the modern rural carrier drives a late model car, jeep or station wagon. He delivers mail, collects mail, sells postage stamps, acts as money-order agent, picks up out-bound parcel post, and delivers parcel post. The rural patron needs only to flip up the red flag on the mail box to stop the carrier on his appointed rounds.

Farm Improvements Take Man From Ox to Tractor

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

The village blacksmith wasn't the only fellow who needed "strong and brawny" arms back in the good old days. Farmers, too, had to be rugged men—strong enough to stand up under the punishing toil of a galley slave from before sunup until long after sundown.

The ax and the rifle remained the basic tools of the pioneers. Removal of trees was the first step in occupying the forest lands. Regardless of how the trees were felled, they had to be cut, piled and burned. Burning the timber, often at log rollings, was followed by the grubbing of briars, roots and underbrush. Often this continued for several years before the land was ready for cultivation.

Plowing new ground was an arduous task as the plows generally were crude—wooden mold boards with metal points or shares.

The prairies gave the pioneers trouble since often the thickly-matted grass roots extended downward for more than a foot. Prairie plows cut wide but more shallow furrows than those used in breaking for steeplands. So difficult was the prairie plowing that often from six to ten oxen were yoked together to pull a single plow.

The farmer of over a century ago was still a "man with a hoe." He whacked open the soil or ill-ploughed ground to drop in kernels of corn.

With the hoe he covered and cultivated it. With a corn knife he topped and cut off the blades for fodder, later removing the ears. Or he cut it, shocked it, and shucked it.

Our farming ancestors went forth, even as the sower in Biblical times, to stumble over cloddy ground as he broadcast his seed. At harvest he swung the back-breaking cradle, bent over to tie the sheaves, and finally flailed his wheat "that slowest, most laborious, expensive and wasteful operation on the farm." If he worked hard he got ten bushels a day. He cut his hay with a scythe, raked it with a hand rake, and put it up with a crude pitch fork.

For heavy work the farmer

had his yoke of oxen. They were known as the "poor man's team," since they were cheaper than horses (\$20 to \$30 each) and cost less to keep. A yoke was less expensive and easier to rig up than harness, and the oxen also furnished beef. Working in the woods, breaking up tough new sod with the wooden mold board plow, was the job of these lumbering beasts.

Oxen Lose to Mule

By the fifties the ox appeared to be losing favor. The advent of astonishing new farm machinery spelled doom for the ox. For the only guide lines they knew were "Geel!" and "Haw!" and the cracking

of a long black-snake whip as they meandered along at a leisurely mile-an-hour pace. And even the hardy pioneers hesitated to try to herd a yoke of oxen down between rows of corn.

With the coming of the cast iron plow in the thirties, the steel plow in the forties, and the sulky plow later, horses held sway. This trend was ac-

celerated by the invention of the harvesters, threshers with their treadmill power, the wooden horse rake, and the

cultivators. Oxen were left far behind, and the pony-like horses began acquiring more body and breadth.

The "Prairie Farmer" in 1843 said: "Those acquainted with mules like them very much . . . longer-lived than a horse, very easily kept, strong, and by no means the emblem of obstinacy which have been represented to be."

In time, as steam engines chuffed their way across the prairie, belching smoke, pulling huge train loads with ease, dreamers visioned smaller steam engines rolling across the fields pulling gangs of plows. Several inventors, among them Fawkes and Waters, were determined to give the farmers a steam plow. Fawkes' Steam Plow in 1859 weighed ten tons, plowed an acre in twelve minutes, cost \$1,000 and required four men to operate it.

The first actual success in steam plowing occurred in

Grundy County, Illinois, in 1860. It ran for 23 minutes; stopped 6 minutes for wood; ran 13 minutes; stopped 8 minutes for water; ran for 1 minute. It plowed 2.63 acres in 72 minutes using only 6 of a gang of 13 plows. It burned 1½ cords of wood, and was managed by a band and team to supply fuel and water, a fireman, two men to manage the plows, and the inventor, Mr. Waters.

Steam quickly found its niche as belt power for threshers released horses from this job. Later it was

used to pump water, bale hay, shred and cut silage. Steam power was gradually replaced at the turn of the century by "gasoline traction engines," as the huge contraptions were called. They were long on size and bulk, and short on economy and maneuverability, weighing up to ten tons.

World War I and the slogan "Food will Win The War" sparked the invention and marketing of economical, mass-produced tractors which finished the release from farm drudgery of man and beast.



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CLARK, Dorothy J.

Fences Protected Crops From Free Roaming Stock

TRIB-STAR 5/24/70

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

The rapid settlement of the lands and the need to confine one's livestock to avoid damage to a neighbor's crops led to the fencing of the newly planted lands by the owner and to the necessity for fenced pasturage or the use of the herd-boy for such stock as was allowed to run at large. In those early days fences were erected to keep stock out, not keep it in!

For his own protection the pioneer was compelled to erect his rail fences, a huge task in itself, and as fast as that was accomplished he was needed elsewhere in the many duties that called for his efforts, so that the custom soon grew up of letting his stock run at large in the woods or prairies not yet taken up or at least not yet cultivated or fenced.

The column of this subject last week told of the earmarks recorded at the courthouse in the earliest days of Vigo County. These stray records and hog marks were kept in the county recorder's office.

Isaac Ray was the first to file in 1820 and was followed by John Winter, "the left ear off and a slit in the right" the first instance of a complete removal and revealed a confidence in the honesty of his neighbors, Robert McDougal, James Button, Horatio G. Collins, John Manwaring, Benjamin Porter, Henry Balding, David Lyons,



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Lewis Rodgers, Joseph D. Jacques, John Coltrin, Samuel W. Edmunds (who with Coltrin published Terre Haute's first daily paper, the "Prairie Citizen"), John H. Watson (our first private banker), Henry Markle, John Slavens, John C. Packard, Ashel Harris, James Curry and William Coltrin.

Isaac Balding, William W. Downing, Benjamin Whaley "a hollow slope off the upper side of the left ear," was followed by Pardon Smith with "a hollow slope off the upper side of the right ear," William H. Holmes, Cheesebrough Taylor, Daniel McCullough, William Armstrong and Thomas M. Curry completed the record for 1820.

Hugh Conner marked the beginning of another year and was followed by George Damon, Otis McCullough, James Brooks, Samuel McQuilkin (keeper of the Light Horse Tavern and founder of Macks-ville now West Terre Haute), John F. King, Samuel Cherum, Amos Rice, Colonel De-weese, Jeremy Boynton, David Swalls, Elijah Turner, Moses Burgett, Isaac Keyes, John Woods, William Souls, Price Cheesman, Isaac Anderson, The Souls brothers, Charles W. and Nelson, Ste-

son, Hiram Smith, "a half crop off the upper side of the right ear and the same off the under side of the left," Levi Johnson, Samuel C. Thompson, William Christy, William Stephens, dated April 10, 1824, and followed by John Adair over twenty year later.

That the practice was falling off is shown by the gap of two years to the next, that of Daniel Carruthers, a year and a half later L. D. Cleghorn recorded "a swallow fork in

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each ear" and in September, 1839, David Bell of Harrison Township and Josiah Hicklin of Sugar Creek filed, five years later Thomas Bell of Harrison and Daniel Shank of Fayette recorded their marks.

From the early days of registering hog marks for the few head of stock each pioneer farmer might have running loose near his home to the days when Terre Haute phen Hawley, William Walker, Chandler Tillotson, Alvah Payne, Curtis Gilbert, John Briggs, the Hovey brothers, William Thompson, Israel Harris and John Blocksom.

1823 opened the record with George W. Deweese for the first mark to be recorded, followed by Alvah Hotchkiss, Lewis Vansickle, William D. Palmer, William Thom-

became the center of a huge pork-packing industry is only a short space of time. The beginning of the pork industry here dates from 1824 when Benjamin I. Gilman established an office in a little brick house on the corner of First and Mulberry streets.

Although pork packing began in Terre Haute in 1824 with the enterprise of the Gilman Brothers (later of St.

Louis), the highest point of the industry was reached during the decade of the late forties and early fifties.

In 1848 some 54,750 hogs were packed here; in 1849, they totaled 64,066; in 1850, 70,548; in 1851, 66,851; 1852, the peak year with 108,791; then a steady decline, 1853, 78,809; 1854, 69,976; 1855, 48,562; 1856, 49,150; and 1857, 49,151, a gain of one hog!

Early settlers told of the times when droves of hogs were driven through the Terre Haute streets (yes, even down Wabash Avenue!) to the pork-packing houses near the river. These hogs came in from all

the surrounding counties and from Illinois across the river, to be processed here for shipment down river and via the canal to other markets.

In 1852, a report was published reviewing the pork-packing industry for the past year, in which it was shown that hogs were packed at every little town along the Wabash from Vincennes to Logansport. Near Terre Haute were York, Clinton, Durkee's Ferry and Montezuma. The total along the river was estimated at 226,462 for the year 1851.

In 1842 one Hoosier noted that "land pike variety of

hogs are so cheap that stealing them is no longer a petit larceny." He quoted Berkshire and Improved Breeds at \$1 to \$1.75 per hundred pounds. By 1853, the large surplus of pork grown in Indiana demonstrated the fact that the farmers raised too much Indian corn in proportion to the number of acres of improved land. Improvement in hogs came during the 1850-60 period, when Indiana had more hogs than any other state—an average of nearly ten for each family. The common hogs were variously known as Elm Peeler, Alligator, Land-Pike, Razorback, Prairie Rooster.

They ran at large until they were two or three years old. Then they were fattened on corn for several weeks prior to butchering or being driven to market, weighing 150 to 250 pounds. Small wonder Terre Haute was once in danger of being named "Porkopolis."

CLARK, Dorothy J

Earmarks Were Common To Identify Farm Stock

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By DOROTHY J. CLARK

In pioneer days livestock was allowed to run at large in the woods or prairie lands not yet taken up or at least not yet cultivated or fenced. The cows were safely turned out in the morning and usually returned at night in time for milking, but doubtful ones wore a bell to guide the boys to her grazing in case she failed to return. The horses were usually trained to come when they were called, and the colts stay with their elders. The calves and yearlings were left to range freely until they might be wanted, and the hogs led a carefree life in the woods from the time they were turned out until they had fattened on the bountiful supply of mast.

Horses and cows as well as oxen were so well known that there was little chance of a dispute as to ownership, but no one knew his own hogs, and while there was some marking of beef cattle practiced, the registration of an owner's mark in the county recorder's office was usually for the identification of his swine.

These marks were on either or both ears and consisted of "slits, slants, slopes, squares, forks, bits and holes" in certain locations designated in the mark as recorded. A slit was a short cut of the knife in either ear and in the end or the upper or lower edge. A slant was cut off the end of either ear, but taking more off one edge than the other. A slope was a long, curved cut beginning well back of the end and ending at the tip of the ear. A square was a small square cut out of the upper or lower edge of either ear. A fork, sometimes termed a "swallow fork," was a triangular cut taken out of either top or bottom edge or indented into the end of either ear. A hole was a circular cut out of either ear, usually near the tip. Slits, bits, forks and squares might also be doubled in one or both ears.

About 250 of these earmarks were recorded in the county and some of the names of the owners seem surprising until we realize that nearly three-quarters of a century was to pass before the practice of letting livestock, horses, cows and hogs, to run freely in the streets of Terre Haute was finally



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stopped by a city ordinance.

On April 15, 1819, Chauncey Rose recorded as his mark for animals "an underbit in each ear." Curtis Gilbert, who lived on Ohio at First street at that time, used "an upper slant of the right ear," but evidently, having sold his stock, relinquished this mark in 1822 and recorded the same day "a slit in the end of the left ear."

Mark Sold with Animal

Such relinquishments were not uncommon, being caused by the sale of one's entire stock to another who took over the mark, but occasionally it is apparent that some new filing of a mark so similar might have been the real reason for the change.

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Threshing Day Described

In Newspaper Clipping

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By DOROTHY J. CLARK

In early days, grain was cut with a sickle or scythe, raked by hand into windrows, bound into sheaves, and carried to the threshing floor. This was either a patch of hard, level ground or a barn floor. There the grain was threshed, separated from the straw, by driving horses or oxen over it. Or it was done by beating it with flails, two sticks hinged together with a leather thong. Then the grain was winnowed by putting it into shallow baskets and tossed up and down in a strong wind. The wind carried away the chaff and left the grain.

A long list of inventions led from such primitive methods to the modern combine which reaps, threshes, and sacks the grain all at one time. One step forward was the invention of the cradle, an improved scythe with fingers for gathering the grain as it was cut.

The first threshing machine was invented in 1786 by Andrew Meikle, a Scotsman, and from that time on, invention after invention has been made until the modern combine of today was perfected.

Threshing machines are usually remembered as huge steam engines which were hauled from farm to farm in harvest season and their crews and extra helpers required much good home-cooking.

An old farm paper of the Eighties tells of an interview with a farm wife whose prowess at cooking for threshers was well-known throughout the community. "Mrs. Smith, do tell me why it is you never speak of threshing as if you dreaded its approach. One would think you were glad all those men were coming. I'm sure I would get nervous at the thought of it, and everything that might go wrong when they did come."

"I do not dread their coming, for threshing is something we must do, and why not accept the inevitable with as pleasant grace as possible?"

"That's true, but how do you manage your work? You look as cool when they come in as though you had done nothing but your regular work."

"There is no great secret. I assure you. I rule my work instead of the work ruling me."



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We cook in our summer kitchen. John always tells me before-hand when to expect the threshers, so I bake my cakes, pies and bread, boil ham and make my beet and cucumber

pickles the day before they come. The day they are here we get up very early and do all our housework as soon as we can, so we can give our whole mind to the preparation of dinner. We have all the different kinds of vegetables we can get, and at least two varieties of meat. We do not have much jelly or preserves, as our men never care for those things. We always have two kinds of pie, serving a piece of each kind on pie-plates. I do not like to have the pies put on carved, or worse yet, whole, as some people put them on the table. For one dinner we make four of each kind of pie.

"We aim to have everything cooked by eleven o'clock, and the table set in the dining room. The vegetables we keep warm, but everything else we place on the table ready for eating. Course dinners would be absurd for workingmen. From eleven until nearly

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twelve we rest: then we make the coffee — two gallons usually suffices. Then we place everything they are to eat on the table, even filling the glasses with cold water just before they come in. On a side table we have the cups and saucers ready to pour the coffee into when the men are seated. Kate pours and passed the coffee, which the men sea-

son to their own tastes, while I pass meat, bread, vegetables, etc. After that Kate and I sit down, asking as a favor that the men serve themselves as much as possible, keeping ourselves in readiness for replenishing dishes or cups when wanted.

"Our table will admit of but 12 persons sitting at it, so we have two tablefuls. After the first lot are through, we replenish all the dishes, brush up all the crumbs, and wash all the dishes needed. Fortunately I have so many dishes that we need few washed. We serve our second

tableful to exactly the same things we did our first. When the men are gone, Kate and I eat our dinner, wash the dishes and go to sleep. At four o'clock we begin to prepare for supper. We have cake and fruit for dessert, the only exception from the lunch. I make tea, too, as some men prefer it.

"We always give our men a wash-tub to bathe in, at the cistern, and two or three large towels. We put the looking-glass and comb out, too. This is a much better way than to have one get ready at a time. Our men are all gentlemen

in deportment, and we endeavor to treat them as such. We give them to eat the best we can get, and plenty of it. I do like to have them eat heartily."

William Blockson came to Vigo County in 1816 and settled on Section 29 in Honey Creek Township. He flatboated corn down river to New Orleans and later drove a transportation wagon. For a time Mr. Blockson operated the only threshing machine in this county, and afterwards purchased more land and farmed for himself.

Another well known family

of this county was that of William Gobin of Prairie Creek township. He was a farmer, millwright and sawmill operator and possessed mechanical ability enabling him to operate any machinery. One of his thirteen children, William I. Gobin, born in 1852, worked on the farm until he bought a threshing machine in 1879 and operated it for ten years. He also did carpenter and mason work and ran a sawmill like his father.

Shover Douglas Humphrey, a farmer in Section 17, Otter Creek Township, operated a threshing machine from 1879

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to 1904, and won a reputation for threshing more wheat in the same length of time than any other man in the county. From one o'clock in the afternoon until seven in the evening he threshed ten hundred and eighty six bushels. In 1896 Mr. Humphrey ran the general store in Heckland which he continued for 12 years.

This little poem describes the familiar harvest time threshing scene:

"I remember thrashin' days:

Life is like them, lots of ways.

I recall the thrashin' scene. When they put the big machine

In the barnyard, how it roared,

How the smoke in billows poured

How it all impressed the boys.

But the farmer, I recall, Watched one thing, and that was all.

Used to watch a little spout To see what grain was comin' out."

Competition Was Brisk in Early Milk Marketing Days

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TS DEC 2 1973

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

In very early Terre Haute, probably one-third of the families living here kept a cow, and fresh milk was available twice a day to those who desired it. In the spring, a boy in the family drove the cow to pasture on "Sixteen" known as the school section west of the county road (Seventh street now), and between the present Locust street and Maple avenue.

Another boy was in charge of the herd during the day, and up until 1839, this was free pasturing, although the land was in charge of the school superintendent. In that year Section 16 was cut up into lots of the same size as the city blocks now in that area. Some fencing and building cut down on the pasture, but as late as 1880 the area known as Early's Grove was still used as common property.

West of Third street from Second to Fourth avenues, and Third to First streets, was divided into four lots which were bought by the city and became the City Cemetery, now the old part of Woodlawn Cemetery.

With the common pasture area becoming smaller and smaller, year by year, the ownership of the milk cows was transferred to farmers on the borders of the town, and these dairymen began their rounds with a small one-horse wagon delivering one or two 10-gallon containers of milk to their customers each day. At the bottom of the cans were small faucets from which a tin measuring cup gave to each customer his daily purchase.

Since gravity had its effect on the richness of the milk, each draft from the faucet left the richer milk or cream in the bottom of the can.

The careful dairymen also sold cream at a higher price in smaller quantities. This was either drawn from the remaining quantity in the can or from a small container which carried the richer milk or cream which had been left in the bottom of the can. The unfairness of this method brought about a revision of possibly a town or city ordinance which required that the milk be drawn from the can by a long handled dipper inserted in the top of the can and the milk was to be vigorously stirred before being measured.

In the course of events, due to weather conditions or nature's own separation, the cream frequently soured and the dairymen was required to make it into cheese or butter. By 1880 the milk wagons competed for business, and each family had its own supply so that in a single block there might be as many as four dairymen in competition for the trade.

The quality of the milk improved through this competition, but it was not until 1902



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that a corporation was organized to insure better and purer milk for the town. This was the Terre Haute Pure Milk Company, and among its founders were: Lee Goodman, Dr. John R. Crapo, Anton Mayer, Charles Arleth, Morton C. Rankin, David Watson, Benjamin G. Hudnut, Emile Froeb, Edward Hampton, C. W. Nagel, Dr. Will E. Bell, Carl Stahl, Camille Urban, Mr.

Schember, Mr. Conrath, John G. Heint, John Barbazette, Fred A. Seeburger, Al Higgins, Charles Ohmer, Louis Duenweg and Paul Kuhn.

Who were these public-spirited citizens and what part did they play in the community? Lee Goodman lived at 518 So. 6th st., and was a partner in the firm of Goodman & Hirschler, clothiers and Merchant tailors at 410 Wabash ave.

Dr. Crapo lived at 130 So. 6th st., and his office was at 606 Walnut st. Charles Arleth, secretary to Anton Mayer, handled most of the business transactions. He occupied a small office on the second floor of the three-story building Mr. Mayer built between the Merchants Bank and the Tribune buildings.

Morton C. Rankin was the owner of a lumber yard which became Armstrong Walker after his tragic death. David Watson, gas fitter, was prominent in fraternal circles and at one time was county clerk. Hudnut operated a chain of

hominny mills through western Indiana, and was president of the Vigo County National Bank. Emile Froeb ran a leather, findings and harness hardware business on South Sixth street. Edward Hampton ran a drug store at 30 So. Third st., and later at the northeast corner of Fourth and Ohio.

C. W. Nagel had two butcher shops: one was on South Fourth and one was on South First street. His home is now the Historical Museum at Sixth and Washington streets.

Dr. Bell lived on Poplar, east of Sixth street, where he later erected an apartment house. He was one of the organizers of the Union Hospital.

Carl Stahl and Camille Urban owned the firm Stahl-Urban Manufacturers of men's work clothes located at 91 1/2 and Ohio streets, now the WTHP building.

Mr. Schember and Mr. Conrath were shoe dealers at 322 Wabash. John G. Heint, Railroad and steamship ticket agent and long in the florist business, had his office at 25 No. Eighth.

John Barbazette was connected with the distillery mainly as a cattle feeder. Fred A. Seeburger operated a meat market about where the Tribune building now stands. Al Higgins, an attorney, operated the old Terre Haute Buggy Company as receiver. Charles Ohmer was at one time the operator of the dining room at the old Union Station; he resided at 322 North Sixth street.

Louis Duenweg, agent for a brewing company here, was also connected with some gold mining companies. Paul Kuhn, long connected with the grain and elevator business, was best known in his later years as operator of racing and training horses on a farm near Glenn, formerly the property of G. W. Rement.

The high cost of equipment and the unexpected cost of operation caused the 1902 corporation to abandon the project. Several years later the idea was revised and an entirely different group of men with what they thought was sufficient capital organized and incorporated as the Terre Haute Pure Milk and Ice Cream Co.

Seventy years later, it still takes a group of business men interested in the growth and betterment of their community to get the job done, whatever it might be.

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It Was A Hard Life for Early Wabash Farmers

TO NOV 17 1974 By DOROTHY J. CLARK

The agricultural implements of the early settlers were about as crude as you would imagine. The only plows they had were called "cork-screws." With mold-boards of wood, these plows were supposed to have been able to kick a man over the fence and kick at him three times after he was over.

Some time later the ground-hog threshing machine was introduced. Some old-timers wondered why they were not adopted as an implement of war, for they would have been formidable at short range to blind the advancing columns by throwing wheat in their eyes. There was no attachment for separating the wheat from the chaff. It was put in bins and cleaned at leisure by sheet or windmill. Corn was gathered by snapping it from the stalk and throwing it on the ground, then gathering up by hand and putting it into a sledge or wagon and then it was hauled to some smooth place on the farm and thrown into a rick, after which all the neighbors would be invited to the husking, when they would proceed to husk and throw it in a pile before being hauled to the crib and thrown in by hand. There was no such thing as a scoop-shovel to handle the grain with at that time. I suppose the labor performed in gathering the corn at present wages would have cost more than the corn was worth.

When hogs were sold they were weighed in the old-fashioned steelyard scales. They were weighed by taking the breeching off the horses and suspending the hogs in it, one at a time, while they were weighed. The price was usually one dollar and fifty cents per hundred pounds for the best. They were driven on foot to some market on the nearest river.

A number of years afterward, they used the old-fashioned beams with a box to put the hog in. It never entered

their minds to balance against the box, but they subtracted the weight of the box from every hog, as they did the breeching, and when the present stock scales were



DOROTHY J. CLARK

first introduced, men would drive five miles to weigh in the box because the weigh-master failed to subtract the platform and frame around it from the weight of the hogs. So, you can see that the old saying that our forefathers carried a stone in one end of the sack and the corn in the other is about true after all.

Along with the primitive plow, the harness used in those days was also very crude, simply a shuck collar with linen tugs. Linn bark, the inner bark of the linden tree, from which tug, straps, strings and thongs were made, was first soaked in a creek until it became soft and pliant, when it was doubled and twisted into various sizes according to the use for which

it was intended. This linn bark was also used for bed cords, well-sweeps and plow lines. Four or five feet of the larger size were occasionally used judiciously in disciplining an indolent refractory plow boy.

The early grist mills were very clumsy affairs, run by water or in some cases horse power. Sometimes the miller was so overcrowded with grists that he would have to place tallow dips in different parts of the mill so he could run at night.

Many of the pioneer far-

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Dorothy Clark

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Continued From Page 4.

mers had their own cider presses, a kind of lever press, the apples being pounded or crushed with a wooden pestle or maul, and the cider pressed out. In most settlements there was at least one cider mill and press to which many farmers came with their apples. They did their own work, paying the mill owner 10 cents per barrel for the use of the equipment. As cider was an essential ingredient of the popular apple butter, and the only vinegar to be procured was formed from the hard cider, and as everyone drank sweet cider, the cider mill was a most important institution.

The cider mill had wooden rollers, about 12 inches in diameter and 18 inches long, with large grooves cut in them which fit into each other like big cog wheels. A crooked pole makes the "sweep," the small end of which was fastened to the horse. A hopper to put the apples in is fastened on the front part of the mill, so they fall into the cogs of the rollers as they turn around. A five or six barrel poplar trough was placed under the rollers to catch the pomace. The heavy beams and posts were made of oak, and the great wooden screw, 12 feet long and six inches in diameter, eight feet of which has an inch thread cut in it, made of black gum.

After the apples had been ground, they were placed in a hoop, lined with clean, dampened wheat straw, and these hoops like cheeses, were put in the press and the weight applied by means of the screw. On hot days, bees and yellow jackets were a terror to the cider maker as they swarmed about the press to get the cider.

There was a strong alliance formed among the first settlers. Neighbors needed each other in those days, for there was no place else to turn for help in this Wabash Valley wilderness.

In some areas they formed themselves into "claim clubs," the workings of which were known only to themselves with regular officers and their law was extreme against all intruders on their claims. This harmony of purpose and unity of action drew them together in a bond so strong and unyielding that the very foundation of society are now built upon it. They realized that, as they sowed, posterity would reap.

About Farming and Fairs- First State Fair in 1852

Community Affairs File

TS AUG 10 1975 By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Formation of an Indiana State Board of Agriculture in 1851, the group that produced the first State Fair in 1852, was not new or radical. First published reports of farming are found in the Bible which divided agriculture into the grain farmer and the livestock farmer. The Bible refers to Cain as a "tiller of the ground," and Abel as a "keeper and feeder of sheep."

The first agricultural society recorded in history was organized in Scotland in 1723 and called, "A Society for the Improvement of Agriculture." By 1730, thirteen agricultural societies were operating in England with 19 auxiliaries or smaller societies.

The first such society in the United States was established in South Carolina in 1784, and later the same year another was formed in Philadelphia. Others appeared in New York and Massachusetts in 1791.

Such organizations began to appear in Indiana in the early 1800's. The Franklin County Agricultural Society was

founded about 1834, but it did not last. It was reorganized in 1852. The Parke County Agricultural Society was founded in 1837, but disbanded in a short time because members had such difficult times getting to meetings.

The Parke County Society reorganized in 1844 and began holding what is believed to be the first Agricultural Society sponsored fairs in the state. This organization was in existence when the state law of 1851 was passed.

At that time Hoosier farmers raised about 15 bushels of wheat to the acre and received from 55 to 65 cents per bushel. Corn averaged from 30 to 40 bushels to the acre and brought 25 to 30 cents per bushel.

Hogs over 200 pounds sold

Continued On Page 5, Col. 1.



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TS AUG 10 1975
Continued From Page 4.

for \$11 per head. A good mule brought \$40 and horses sold for from \$75 to \$100. Fat cattle brought \$25 per head and sheep, from \$1 to \$1.50 each.

Only a few miles of railroads in operation in the state by 1852, and the Wabash & Erie Canal furnished the major sources of moving the state's surplus agriculture products to the markets. Governor Wright pointed out that the state was a leader in road building because it had about 700 miles of "plant" roads.

The major portion of the state's farming area was still covered with hardwoods, principally cherry, walnut, oak and hickory. Coal had been unearthed in southern Indiana and was delivered to the consumer for \$1.96 a ton.

When the Indiana State Fair celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1877, farmers were raising 14 to 16 bushels of wheat per acre and were receiving from \$1.20 to \$1.35 a bushel. The 25 to 30 bushel-per-acre average for corn brought from 35 to 40 cents a bushel. The average value of Indiana farmland was \$20.44 per acre. Each section (640 acres) of land in the state was occupied by 60 persons and residents were spending \$4,873,094 to support 9,476 schools, most of them of the one-room variety, with 498,726 pupils.

Farmers were having trouble with sheep-killing dogs and the hog farmer was hard hit with an epidemic of hog cholera which swept through the state.

With 3,792 miles of railroads in operation, the state boasted the largest mail mileage in the U.S. and there was an additional 1,000 miles of road surveyed or in the process of construction.

Improved land under cultivation totaled 10,104,279 acres, but 39.6 of the state's area remained in woodland.

Hoosier cattlemen met in Indianapolis in 1872 to organize what is believed to be the first breed association in the world. This meeting resulted in the formation of the Indiana State Association of Shorthorn Breeders. Joseph Gilbert, of Terre Haute, served as secretary of the first swine breeders' organization formed in 1872 in Indianapolis.

over

Crops were good and agriculture was prospering when the state fair celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1902. Nearly every county in the state reported that 17-year locusts were invading the state. Farm land was selling for from \$85 to \$125 per acre. Corn was selling for from 35 cents to 40 cents per bushel. Clover hay was \$6 per ton. Extra prime steers were selling for \$5 per 100 and fair to medium grades were from \$3.75 to \$4.40 per 100 weight. Principal varieties of corn being planted were Leaming, Johnson County White Dent, Riley's Favorite and Boone County White.

Indiana boasted 66 butter or cheese factories and 23 ice cream and milk plants. Butter was being manufactured at an estimated cost of three cents per pound. Milk drivers began to appear on the roads to transport milk to plants located off railroads. A 1902 farm pickup wagon driver got \$1.50 per trip, and he hauled from 800 to 1,000 pounds a load.

In 1927, when the state fair celebrated its 75th anniversary, Indiana's once-great traction empire had begun to crumble. It was the interurban lines that brought the first electricity to Indiana farmers. Rural communities and homes along the right-of-way of the interurban lines were given the privilege of taking electric current from the transmission lines which carried the power for the traction cars. A rural resident always knew when an interurban was approaching at night. The light would dim when the "motor man" speeded up his car.

During the so-called

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"Depression Years" of the early 1930's, the Fair Board, for the first time, ruled that admittance to the grounds could be procured for something else besides money. Farmers were allowed to bring sacks of grain to exchange for a fair ticket.

A Long-Running Event:

TS AUG 24 1975

The Indiana State Fair

Community Affairs File

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

TS AUG 24 1975

The Indiana State Fair, show window of nearly everything that makes Indiana great, will be 123 years old in 1975.

Horses, plank roads and the canal system, together with a few more miles of railroad tracks, were the means of transportation which brought together 17 men in Indianapolis on May 27, 1851 to organize the Indiana State Board of Agriculture as provided by the General Assembly of that year.

Members of the first state board named by the General Assembly were instructed to determine "by lot" the members to serve 1 year terms and those to serve 2 year terms. Selected for 2 year terms were: Gov. Wright of Marion Co.; Dr. Alexander Stevenson of Putnam Co.; Roland Willard, Kosciusko Co.; David P. Holloway, Wayne Co. (he wrote the law); Geo. W. Lane, Lawrence Co.; Samuel Emison, Knox Co.; Thomas W. Swinney, Allen Co.; and George Hussey, Vigo Co.

For 1 year terms were Jeremiah McBride, Martin Co.; Jacob R. Harris, Switzerland Co.; Henry L. Ellsworth, Tippecanoe Co.; John Ratliff,

Morgan Co.; John B. Kelly, Warrick Co.; John McMah-
han, Wash-
ington Co.; George W. Brown, Shelby Co.; and Gen-
eral Joseph Orr, LaPorte Co.



DOROTHY J. CLARK

Present at the first meeting were Messrs Wright, McBride, Willard, Harris, Ratliff, Holloway, Kelly, Emison, Swinney, Brown and Hussey. Also attending were the following delegates from county societies: W. D. Allen, Putnam Co.; Joseph L. Jernagan, St. Joseph Co.; R. M. Waterman, Vermillion Co.; G. W. Stacy, Kosciusko Co.; and S. C. Willson, Montgomery Co.

The first meeting was short. The delegates elected Governor Wright as president and adjourned until the next day when John B. Dillon of Indianapolis was named secretary, Royal Mayhew, treasurer, and Mr. Hussey, first vice president, with Mr. Emison, second vice president. The members voted to hold Indiana's first state fair in the fall of 1852.

This first state fair was held in Indianapolis at what is now known as Military Park for 3 days, Oct. 20, 21 and 22, 1852. Frame buildings were constructed to house exhibits. All exhibitors paid a fee of one dollar for membership in the State Agricultural Society. This membership also admitted the owner, his wife and all children under 18. Single admission tickets cost 20 cents.

A total of 1,365 entries were exhibited, and cash premiums, silver cups, diplomas and other awards totaled nearly \$2,000. Highest premium of \$25 each were awarded for three essays — "Best Method of Reclaiming and Improving the Swamps of Indiana," "Felly Lands"; and plans for a farm house and related buildings. No premiums were given on horses for speed only.

The second fair was held in Lafayette and opened Oct. 10, 1853. Horace Greeley, famous New York editor, made the

trip west to deliver the principal address "What the Sister Arts Teach as to Farming."

The following year the fair was held at Madison in Oct., 1854. Heavy rains during the entire week cut attendance and receipts and cash premiums fell drastically.

For the next few years, the fair was held in Indianapolis until 1859 when it moved to New Albany where receipts barely paid expenses and premiums. By 1860, the board was nearly bankrupt but the fair had outgrown its first site in Indianapolis and plans were made to purchase grounds.

After much discussion, 36 acres of ground were purchased with the main entrance being located at the corner of what is now 19th and Alabama streets for \$400 per acre.

The Civil War caused the cancellation of the 1861 fair as Indiana volunteer troops were quartered on the fairgrounds which became known as Camp Morton. By 1865 the army had departed from the fairgrounds and the state board held a fair and began plans to collect damages for the property destroyed by the army. Meanwhile fairs were held on the old grounds in Military Park. The Fair went to Ft. Wayne in 1865, back to Indianapolis in 1866, and to Terre Haute in 1867.

On Oct. 1, 1869, crowds of fair-goers were thrown into panic when a steam engine boiler exploded and killed and injured some 30 persons. The steam engine was being used to power some early farm machinery exhibits.

In 1873 a 30-day show was held called Indiana State Fair & Exposition. This lengthy show was shortened a few days each year until finally the exposition was dropped and the Indiana State Fair returned to a 1-week show.

While women had always played an important part in every fair, they were never officially recognized until three weeks before the fair of 1878 when a Women's Department of the Indiana State Fair was authorized by the board. Indianapolis women served in this group. However, a woman did not become a member of the fair

Community Affairs File

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board until 1945 when Mrs. Karolyn Holloway of Colfax, Ind., was appointed by Gov. Ralpdh Gates.

The present fair grounds were purchased in 1891, and except for the World War II years of 1942-45, state fairs have been held in Indiana.

A framed copy of the pen and ink drawings made by early Terre Haute artist Gockins for the center-fold of a national publication depicts the Indiana State Fair of 1867 which was held in Terre Haute and hangs in the Historical Museum, 1411 S. 6th St. Scenes include the famous four-cornered race track, located where the ISU football field is now at Wabash and Brown avenues, prize-winning stock animals, an early mansion house in the city, our famous oil well, and other sketches of importance in the year 1867.

First Vigo County Fair was in

TS JUL 13 1980

Farm (Vigo Co)

Vigo County held its first county fair in 1854 in the courthouse square. The farmers instigated the event, and the people of Terre Haute offered willing cooperation. An organization of sorts was loosely formed to head up the first fair, and from all reports it was quite successful.

One historian reported "the country boys combed the burrs out of their carting horses' mane and tail, and entered them to rack, trot or hand-gallop for the premium—a small ribbon. The town men brushed up some of his goods and took them to the fair. The good people met, shook hands, told stories, drank painted lemonade and enjoyed life for once."

Interest Grows

For ten years at irregular intervals county fairs were held. Interest was growing, however, among the people. The county authorities felt the influence, and began to take steps that soon led to the founding of the Vigo County Agricultural Society, a regularly incorporated institution, which owned valuable property, all made for the sole purpose of the society.

The elaborate premium list for 1890 stated that it was the 25th regular county fair, and that the total of premiums and purses to be distributed among exhibitors was \$8,000.

Over the years the financial situation of the fair would threaten to collapse, but it continued to struggle for existence. The county and city authorities realized its importance and from time to time would lend encouraging assistance.

Ground Purchased

On behalf of the heirs of Benjamin McKeen, W. R. McKeen offered to sell 54 acres of land located on East Wabash Avenue, where the Memorial Stadium now stands, for the Society's purposes.

This location was admirably suited for a fairgrounds, and a bargain, so the county purchased the ground. A street railway ran to the main entrance, and inside were "elegant buildings, halls, and an amphitheater shaded by huge old forest trees."

Two race tracks were provided first, a mile track and a half mile track, and, like everything else about the fairgrounds, were considered by the noted horsemen who came here from all over the world, as being the finest in the land.

Running and trotting tracks had been located in Terre Haute for many years before the first trotting park was built on the Corbin farm (later Martin Park) in 1851.

Four-Cornered Track

Terre Haute's famous "four-cornered track" was laid out in 1886. Histories of the county allege that the unusual shape—the "square" which made the Terre Haute track world famous—was the result of an attempt to put a mile track in the only room available, and the National Road along the south edge of the grounds was an insurmountable barrier to expansion. Of course, this same National Road also was the highway which brought to Terre Haute the best horseflesh and the flashiest horsemen of the fabulous "Gay Nineties."

The old racing grounds originally contained a half mile track also, as previously mentioned, but the Terre Haute men wanted only the "first class" meets which required a mile distance. George R. Grimes, a surveyor, was hired to fit a mile track on the McKeen land, and the result was the humped square on which Nancy Hanks, Axtell, Axworthy, General Watts and scores of other matchless animals were to make harness racing history.

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark



Record Holder

Axtell's Terre Haute record for 3-year-olds, 2:12 in 1889, stood for 17 years. Axworthy, a son of Axtell, was born at Warren Park Farm, trained at the Terre Haute track, and made a record for 3-year-olds of 1:15.5. Injured, the horse sold for \$500, but later became one of the greatest sires of trotting colts.

Instead of the broom-tailed colts the farm boys once exploited at the fairs in the old courthouse yard, were to be seen strings of the most noted horses in the world. No such collection of horses was ever seen before in U. S. history as was that of the annual Trotting Horse Association meeting of 1890. It was estimated that two million dollars worth of horseflesh was to be seen in the ring at one time.

This was not because of a great number of animals, but at the head of the list was the great

Terre Haute horse Axtell that sold for more money than was ever before paid for a horse.

Next in value was the noted 4-year-old Sunol, the fastest ever turned on a track, and a hundred others only less famous because they were overshadowed by these world-wide celebrities.

The Terre Haute Trotting Association was an extension of the County Agricultural Society and accomplished more for blooded horses than the fair proper had been able to do for improvement of the common farm stock of the county.

First Regular Fair

The first regular county fair under the auspices of the Vigo County Agricultural Society was held in 1858. The officers were William D. Ladd, president; T.P. Murray, vice president; William Durham, secretary, and Henry Fairbanks, treasurer.

In 1890 the officers were Leonard S. Briggs, president; James M. Sankey, vice president; Uriah P. Jeffers, superintendent; George A. Scholl, treasurer, and Charles A. Oakey, secretary.

Other directors were John G. Williams, G. C. Clem, Ed Ellis, W.T. Beauchamp, H.D. Roquet, Frank McKeen, John M. Clift and W.R. Hunter.

The present fair association began with the Vigo County Agricultural Association organized in 1930, and in August, 1940 was reorganized and incorporated under the name of the Wabash Valley Fair Assoc. The present fairgrounds are located south of town on U.S. 41. All this has evolved from that first little fair held 116 years ago on the courthouse lawn.

courthouse square

Historically Speaking

Vigo County 'woke up to its duty' of conducting fairs 130 years ago

By DOROTHY CLARK

Vigo County woke up to its duty of holding a county fair about 130 years ago. The farmers made the first move, and the people of Terre Haute offered willing encouragement. A semblance of an organization was organized, and in 1854 there was a "fair" in the courthouse square.

County fairs patterned after the ancient fairs in England had become an American institution in the colonies and spread eastward with the early settlers.

Particularly at harvest time, the people gathered to barter and sell, see the sights, talk with strangers, hear the latest news, and kick up their heels and enjoy themselves before another hard winter set in.

The country boys combed the burs out of their carting horses' manes and tails, and entered them to rack, trot or hand-gallop for the premium, a small ribbon.

The townsmen brushed up a stock of goods and took them to the fair.

The women sewed, embroidered, crocheted, knitted and quilted with the fair in mind. Or they may have canned, pickled, churned or baked entries for the blue ribbons.

The good people met, shook hands, told stories, watched the races and contests, drank pink lemonade and enjoyed life for once.

At irregular intervals county fairs took place here. Interest was slowly gaining and the people saw the need.

The county authorities felt the influence and began to take steps to found the Vigo County Agricultural Society, a regularly incorporated institution which owned valuable property, all made for the sole purpose of the society.

According to the elaborate premium list of 1890, it was the 25th regular county fair, making the first one in 1865.

A total of \$8,000 was distributed among exhibitors in premiums and purses that year.

During those early years of struggling and financial distress, the county and city officials would lend encouraging aid from time to time when the fair threatened to collapse.

They realized its importance to the area.

W. R. McKeen, on behalf of the heirs of Benjamin McKeen, offered to sell for the society's purposes 54

acres of land located on East Wabash Avenue where the stadium golf course and Indiana State University Memorial Stadium now stand.

Since it was ideally suited for the purpose, and a bargain, the county purchased the ground.

A street railway ran to the main entrance and within were "elegant" buildings, exhibition halls and an amphitheatre shaded by giant old forest trees.

Two race tracks were provided at first, a mile track and a half-mile track. Like everything else about the fairgrounds, they were considered as being the finest in the country by noted horsemen all over the United States.

Informal running and trotting tracks had been located in Terre Haute for many years before the first trotting park was built in 1851 on the Corbin Farm, later Martin Park.

Well known were the race tracks near Fort Harrison on the Smock property, and another located in the vicinity of Eighth Street and Lafayette Avenue.

Terre Haute's famous "four-cornered" track was laid out in 1886 on the newly purchased land east of the city.

County histories allege that the unusual shape — the "square" which made the Terre Haute track world famous — was the result of the attempt to put a mile track in the only space available.

The National Road skirting the south side of the grounds was both a barrier to the track's expansion and the highway which brought to Terre Haute the best horseflesh and the flashiest horsemen of the fabulous Gay Nineties.

The old racing grounds originally contained a half-mile track also, as previously mentioned, but the local men wanted only the "first class" meets which required a mile distance.

Surveyor George R. Grimes was employed to fit a mile track on the McKeen land; the result was the humped square on which Nancy Hanks, Axtell, Axworthy, General Watts and scores of matchless animals were to make harness history.

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Valley Mag.
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Farm (where Honey Creek Square is now), trained at the local track, and made a record for three-year-olds of 1:15½. Injured, the horse sold for \$500, but later became one of the greatest sires of trotting colts.

Instead of broom-tailed colts farm boys once exploited at the early fairs in the old courthouse yard, were to be seen strings of the most noted horses in the world.

No such collection of horses was ever seen before in U.S. history as was that of the annual Trotting Horse Association meeting of 1890.

It was estimated that horses valued at \$2 million might have been seen at one time in the ring, and this was not because of the great number of animals, but because at the head of the list was the great Axtell, sold for more than money was ever before paid for a horse.

Next in value was the noted four-year-old Sunol, the fastest ever turned on a track, and a hundred others only less noted because they were overshadowed by these world-wide celebrities.

The Terre Haute Trotting Association was an annex of the Vigo County Agricultural Society. It accomplished more for blooded horses than the fair itself could do toward the improvement of farm stock in the county.

The first regular county fair under the auspices of the VCAS was held in 1858. Officers of the society were William D. Ladd, president; T.P. Murray, vice president; William Durham, secretary, and Henry Fairbanks, treasurer.

The Vigo County Agricultural Association was organized in 1930 and reorganized in August, 1940 as the Wabash Valley Fair Association.



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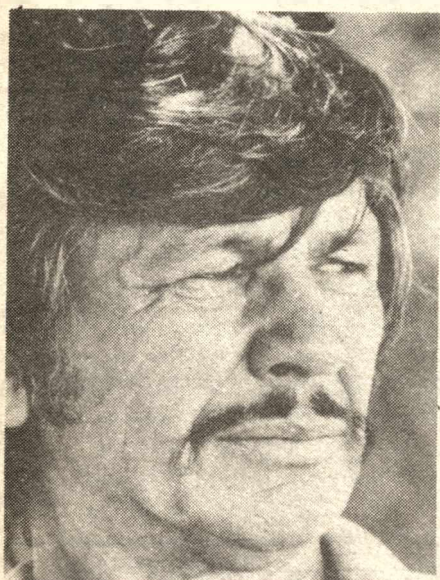
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BETWEEN THE LINES

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES YOU READ ABOUT CELEBRITIES

By Josie



Q. Can you tell me whatever happened to Frank Converse? He used to be a guest star on a lot of TV series, but now I never see him. Why? D. Dwyer, Alsip, Ill.

A. Last year, Frank was busy on Broadway in a revival of "The Philadelphia Story" at Lincoln Center (he played the Cary Grant role opposite Blythe Danner). According to his agent, he now has several projects in the works for the fall TV season. He'll be seen in a "Fantasy Island" segment and in a made-for-TV movie. Frank is also considering film offers, so you should be seeing him in your local movie theater soon.

Q. A friend of mine from Texas says her hometown, Lubbock, has a Hall of Fame. Is she kidding? N. Perrault, Memphis, Tenn.

A. No, there is a Lubbock Hall of Fame. It even has induction ceremonies for its members. There have been two celebrations, one for each of its honorees — Buddy Holly and Waylon Jennings.

Q. Is Charles Bronson really as tough as the characters he plays? L. McMahon, Sacramento, Calif.

A. Bronson prides himself on being a family man, so there is obviously a much softer side to his nature than is seen onscreen. He has passed on some macho hobbies to his sons, however. The Bronson guys enjoy practicing judo, knifethrowing and racing motorcycles.

Q. I heard that Morgan Fairchild was having an affair with Andrew Stevens, Kate Jackson's ex. True? J. Clancy, Woodland Hills, Calif.

A. Fairchild swears that she and Andy are "just friends." They met through Andrew's mom, Stella, with whom Morgan co-stars on "Flamingo Road." The two got to know each other better while working on the film "The Seduction."

LONELY SOAP STARS: Just a few days after being mobbed by female fans at the Daytime Emmy Awards, "Edge of Night's" Allen Fawcett (he plays Kelly McGrath) was seen wandering all alone and unnoticed around the dancefloor of a Manhattan rock club. Guess the disco crowd just doesn't know what a big star he is. Ditto a few nights later when William Gray Espy (Mitch on "Another World") was seen at a popular eatery having a beer all by his lonesome. Seems Robert Duvall was just a few tables away and he was getting all the attention.



Q. I think the guy who sings and dances on the Dr. Pepper commercials is terrific. Who is he? J. Hinton, Washington D.C.

A. The star of those "I'm a Pepper" spots is actor David Naughton. You may also remember him from a series called "Making It" on ABC a few seasons back. Despite the optimistic title, the show flopped but Naughton's career is still on the rise. He's just finished a horror film called "An American Werewolf in London."

Q. I recently saw James Stacy in a TV movie in which he played a man with only one leg. It looked too real to be made up. Is he really an amputee? C. Boyce, Birmingham, Ala.

A. It was real. Stacy lost an arm and a leg in an accident a few years ago (a drunk driver hit him). He hasn't let it stop his acting career, though and he has appeared in several highly acclaimed TV movies.



Q. I'm a big fan of Joni Mitchell's but her last album left me cold. Why has she turned from folk-type music to jazz? J. Crandall, Bloomington, Ind.

A. Good news! Joni plans to return to the folk roots of her early albums with her next recording. She also hopes to produce her next record, her 13th, herself.

Anything you'd like to know about prominent personalities? Write: "Between the Lines," Terre Haute Tribune-Star, 721 Wabash Ave., Terre Haute, Ind., 47808. We regret we cannot answer any letters individually.

THE TRIBUNE-STAR, TERRE HAUTE, IND.

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 1981

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Historically Speaking

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Most marking in the early days was for identification of swine

By DOROTHY CLARK

Nowadays, when a landowner puts up a fence, it's usually to keep his children, dogs and other livestock confined. In the early days of settlement, the pioneer erected rail fences to protect his crops and to keep his neighbor's stock out.

It was a huge task to build a rail fence and took time away from other necessary chores, so the custom began of letting stock run at large in the woods or prairie lands not yet taken up or at least not yet cultivated or fenced.

The cows were safely turned out in the morning and usually returned at night in time for milking. Doubtful ones wore a bell to guide the boys to her grazing in case she failed to return.

The horses were usually trained to come when they were called, and the colts would stay with their elders, but the calves and yearlings were left to range freely until they might be wanted.

The hogs led a carefree life in the woods from the time they were turned out until they had fattened on the bountiful supply of mast (acorns).

Horses, cows and oxen were so well known that there was little chance of a dispute as to ownership, but no one knew his own hogs. While there was some marking of beef cattle, the registration of an owner's mark in the county recorder's office was usually for the identification of swine.

These marks were on either or both ears and consisted of "slits, slants, slopes, squares, forks, bits and holes" in certain locations as designated in the recorded mark.

A slit was a short cut of the knife in either ear and in the end or the upper or lower edge. A slant was a cut off the end of either ear but taking more off one edge than the other.

A slope was a long curved cut beginning well back of the end and ending at the tip of the ear. A square was a small square out of the upper or lower edge of either ear. A fork, sometimes called a

"swallow fork," was a triangular cut taken out of either the top or bottom edge or indented into the end of either ear.

A hole was a circular cut out of either ear, usually near the tip. Slits, bits, forks and squares might also be doubled in one or both ears.

About 250 of these earmarks were recorded in Vigo County, and some of the names seem surprising until we realize that three-quarters of a century was to pass before the practice of letting livestock, horses, cows and hogs, to run freely in the streets of Terre Haute was finally stopped by a city ordinance.

Chauncey Rose, whose agricultural pursuits extended as far east as 13th Street, recorded April 15, 1819 as his mark for animals "an underbit in each ear."

Curtis Gilbert, who lived at First and Ohio streets at that time, used "an upper slant at the right ear." However, he sold his stock in 1822 and relinquished his mark, recording the same day "a slit in the end of the left ear."

Such relinquishments were not uncommon. When a man sold his entire stock, the buyer took over his mark.

Zebina and Zelotes Hovey, who lived well down in the village, marked with "a crop off the right ear and a hole in the left." Israel Harris, tavern keeper, used a mark like an Indian arrowhead, "a crop off the left ear and an upper and lower bit of the same."

George W. Deweese, who built the former Preston House at 13½ and Poplar streets in the 1820s, recorded July 2, 1821, "two half-pennies (bits) in the upper side of each ear and branded with the letter D." He relinquished this Jan. 19, 1822, and recorded the brand only. A year later he recorded "a crop off the end of each ear and the brand D on the near hindquarter."

The Soules family recorded several marks, one each for William, his son Henry, William Jr., Charles W. and Nelson. Other early marks were recorded by Samuel Slavens, John Robertson, Elijah

Robertson, William Odell, David Wilson, John F. Thompson, Truman Ford, Robert Phillips and his brother, William Phillips.

James Barns lived at the far northern line of the present county but then only half way up to the Indian boundary and the northern line of the county.

Among those who recorded marks in the first year of the county (1818) were James Jones, Harvey Campbell, Joseph Dickson, Revolutionary soldier, Joseph Lester, Caleb Trueblood, John Durkee, Alexander Barns, brother of the judge, Joseph Evans, a pioneer of Otter Creek, Bradford Hickcox, James Redford, Isom Puckett, William Ray, another Revolutionary soldier, and Isaac B. Jackson.

Also, Mark Williams, Ira Allen, Q. A. Adams, Michael Blair, Andrew Brooks, former partner of Curtis Gilbert and our earliest gunsmith, Robert Hoggatt of Prairieton, Joshua Skidmore, Jesse Higgins,

Martin Patrick, John Price, Russel Boyd, Joseph Noblett, John Ray, who froze to death soon after, and Daniel Jenckes.

Elias Depew recorded his mark Sept. 11, 1819. He was followed by George Hicks, Jonathan E. Green, George Wright, Loving Rukes, Elisha Parsons, Valentine Swalls, James Shields, James Bennett, Robert Caldwell, Daniel Soesby, another Revolutionary soldier, Joseph Lockwood, Simeon Stephens, Perez Porter and Henry Hendricks.

From 1820 to 1824 a number of the pioneers filed their marks at the courthouse. Then there is a gap of 20 years, showing the practice was failing. In 1826, Daniel Carruthers is listed; 1827, L.D. Cleghorn; and in September, 1849, David Bell of Harrison township; Josiah Hicklin of Sugar Creek; and five years later, Thomas Bell of Harrison and Daniel Shank of Fayette were the last.

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BETWEEN THE LINES

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY...

By Josie

Q. Whatever happened to Anita Pallenberg, the blond that Rolling Stone Keith Richards was with for so long. Didn't she die of a drug overdose? S. Porter, Trenton, N.J.

A. No, she's still alive, but her relationship with Richards disintegrated. After his drug bust in Canada a few years back and an incident in his rented house in Salem, N.Y., in which a young boy was killed, Richards was under orders to clean up his act, specifically to get away from hard drugs. He found he could do it but he and Anita split soon after he cured his addiction.

Q. Was it true that Rona Barrett and Tom Snyder didn't get along — I liked the "Tomorrow Show" when both were doing it. B. Greenberg, Portland, Ore.

A. Barrett and Snyder have strong personalities and each wanted to be in control of the show. Snyder wasn't about to give up his stronghold on the late, late talk show so Barrett walked off. Always a kidder, he reportedly had quite a good time entertaining the "Tomorrow" show staffers by playing back a tape of Barrett's voice at high speed, giving it the chipmunk effect.

Q. Is it true that Olivia Newton-John is going to marry Matt Lattanzi, and is she going to make any more movies? D. Tedford, Buford, Ga.

A. As a friend of hers says, "Who knows with Olivia?" But the word for this moment is that she and Matt are just having a good time with no wedding plans. As for movies, she was a bit stung by the resounding failure of her last film, "Xanadu," so she is choosing the next one with a good deal more thought. She would like to team up again with "Grease" co-star John Travolta and is in the talking stage of doing a remake of the film "Stairway to Heaven." An Australian film company is also after her to star in one of its film projects. For the time being, though, she's back in the safe confines of the recording studio: her new album, "Physical," her first in three years, is due out this month.

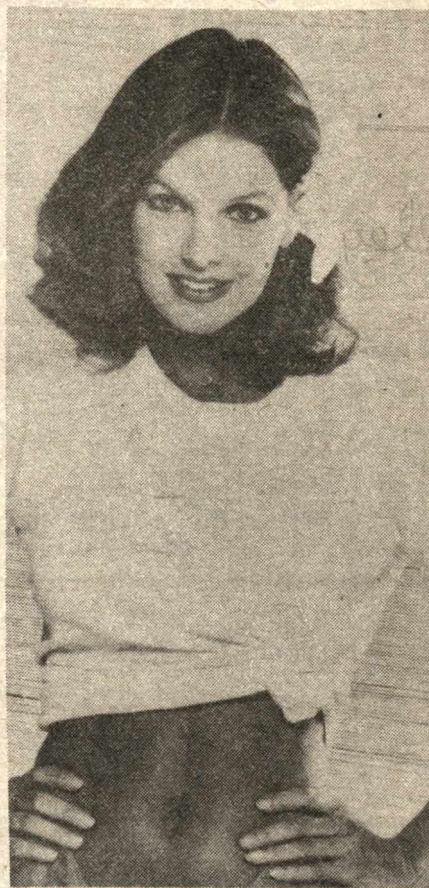


Q. I read somewhere that Harrison Ford once walked off a film and the director was furious. What happened? G. Scheeler, Perrysburg, Ohio.

A. It wasn't a film, it was a house and the distressed client was Sally Kellerman. It seems that Ford had contracted to build some fancy storage units for her (during his starving actor days he supported himself as a carpenter) and he left when he got a movie role. Ford explained to Sally that he'd gotten the lead in "some space movie" — it was, of course, was "Star Wars." For awhile Sally pointed out the exposed beams to guests as evidence of Ford's early work, then finally got another carpenter to finish off the storage units.

Q. I'd like to know why Rick Springfield started singing — wasn't acting on a soap opera enough for him? R. Nicufescu, Loomis, Calif.

A. You've got the story backwards. He was a singer first. He started singing in his native Australia in a group called Zoot, then came to the U.S. in 1973. He promptly got involved in contract hassles, during which he couldn't record for anyone, then finally made a record for Chelsea Records, a studio that went out of business the week the record was released. That's when he went into acting — because he was fed up with the music business. His role as Noah Drake on "General Hospital" has brought him back to public attention. His record "Jessie's Girl" was a number one single for most of the summer.



Q. I thought Priscilla Presley was very talented, not just riding on Elvis' name, but she didn't really do much on "Those Amazing Animals." Is she going to do anything else? F. Schaefer, Short Hills, N.J.

A. Priscilla sees herself as a serious actress and dancer and is going after the rights to "The Red Shoes," the classic Moira Shearer film about a great ballerina torn between her marriage and her dancing career. Of course, some are skeptical about whether introducing unusual animals and pitching shampoo in commercials are adequate training for a role like that, but she's adamant about doing the part.

Q. I was at a Doobie Brothers concert recently and there was hardly anyone in the stands. Is this band going under? K. Latham, Ann Arbor, Mich.

A. No, music business organizers are bemoaning the fact that because of the economy and ticket prices, people just aren't going to concerts anymore. A recent Doobie Brothers appearance in New York, usually a sellout for them, had only 2,500 attending, in an 18,000 seat hall. Even Bruce Springsteen, the current rock 'n' roll king, couldn't sell out two shows in a big hall in Detroit — the first show sold well, but according to a member of the technical staff, they decided to cancel the second show when ticket sales didn't pick up.

Anything you'd like to know about prominent personalities? Write: "Between the Lines," Terre Haute Tribune-Star, 721 Wabash Ave., Terre Haute, Ind., 47808. We regret we cannot answer any letters individually.

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Historically speaking

T s APR 24 1983

Free rural mail delivery started in 1896

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

The postcard is one of the most useful means of communication in the world today, and has been since the first United States postal cards became available for purchase in May, 1873, 110 years ago.

It was in 1870 that Congress' attention was called to the fact that other nations were already producing postal cards. It was recommended that the U.S. do likewise. The bill authorizing U.S. postal cards became law in 1872. They have been printed by the Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C., since 1910.

The domestic postal card became twins for the first time on Oct. 25, 1892, when the "double" reply cards were first issued, the kind with the attached duplicate postal cards that the addressee tears off and uses for his reply.

Rural free mail delivery was officially established in 1896, and the service stands pretty much today as it was then. Instead of horse and buggy, the modern rural carrier drives a late model car, jeep or station wagon. He delivers mail, collects mail, sells postage stamps, acts as money-order agent, picks up out-bound parcel post, and delivers parcel post. The rural patron needs only to flip up the red flag on the mail box to stop the carrier on his appointed rounds.

Before the turn of the century, the American farmer had to go to the nearest town or settlement to get his

mail. This system usually worked out very well, as the farming people needed to buy supplies and get caught up on the news of the community by talking with the townspeople and their neighbors who were also in town for the same purposes.

In 1891 the Postmaster General had been experimenting with free delivery systems in small villages. Early in his term of office, he conceived the idea that the free delivery system could be extended to small towns and farming districts without too much expense to the Postal Department.

Congress appropriated \$10,000 for these experiments. About \$200 was spent at each place, and it was reported that in the 40 or more towns where the experiment had been in operation, revenues of the postoffices had been greatly increased.

However, some people did not agree with the principle that increased postal facilities were always followed by increased postal business and increased revenue. One writer in 1892 posed the argument that Uncle Sam could not afford to pay a man fair wages for distributing a half dozen letters to isolated farm houses scattered over a square mile.

"No matter how far back a farmer lives," said the reporter, "he wants to go to town once or twice a week. He has to go to do his trading, horse-shoeing, tool-mending, etc., and this also takes him to

the post office."

The question of free rural mail delivery was closely connected with the equally important one of needed rural road improvement. Some didn't think that mail could be delivered to the individual farm houses unless the roads were greatly improved. The dirt roads were almost impassable during the rainy season, full of holes, washed out in some sections.

One reason farmers wanted rural mail delivery was to prevent his neighbors from reading his mail and knowing all his business. Friendly neighbors, as a matter of course, would pick up each others' mail while in town and drop it off on their way home.

Postmarks and return addresses, to say nothing of easily read postcards, were obviously noted by the helpful neighbor, and he couldn't help but know his friend's business. Mail delivered by a rural carrier to one's own mailbox would prevent this.

There were at least three requirements for the first rural mail carriers. He must be an "old soldier," a veteran in other words; he must belong to the "right" political party, at least the one currently in power; and he must be in line for such a political plum, as this coveted position was considered to be.

His job was only as secure as the political situation. When the opposite party came into power, his job was taken over by an old soldier of that political conviction. After the

next election, the job might return to the ousted veteran.

The Spanish-American War influenced the rural mail delivery system also. During the war the farmers were anxious to read the casualty lists in the daily newspapers, so they would make every effort to get to town.

This reading of the daily newspapers became a habit that the farmer didn't choose to stop when the war was over. He liked the idea of being informed on national, state and local levels through the medium of the printed page. This fact contributed greatly to the establishment of rural mail delivery.

Nearly a century later, the farmer still wants his mail and newspapers delivered to his mail box, but he has the same opportunity to learn the latest news through television and radio as his urban counterpart.

Records are hazy about the history of the postal cards, but John P. Charlton of Philadelphia apparently originated the idea in 1861. His copyright was turned over to H. L. Lipman of Philadelphia who printed and sold what he called "Lipman's Postal Cards."

Technically, these were commercially printed post cards, not officially produced postal cards. Austria printed the first real postal cards in 1869, followed by the German Confederacy, England and Switzerland in 1870, and by Belgium and the Netherlands in 1871.

Vigo County Public Library

BETWEEN THE LINES

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES YOU READ ABOUT CELEBRITIES

By Josie

Q. I watched Olivia Newton-John's special last year and I just loved her. Can you give me some information about her birthplace, age, background and future projects? Ricky Ellis, Pulaski, Va.

A. "Livvy" as she's known to her pals, was born in Cambridge, England (her father was teaching at the university there), but moved to Australia at the age of 5, so her father could take the job as headmaster of Ormond College in Melbourne. He was, naturally, less than thrilled when his daughter decided to drop out of school at 16.

She had a fairly unhappy childhood, stemming in large part from her parents' divorce when she was 10. But she had an outlet — singing.

She had to be pushed into entering her first talent contest, but she won — leading to a stint as "Lovely Livvy" on "The Happy Show," an afternoon TV show in Melbourne, when she was 15. Newton-John spent five years in England singing in clubs and on TV. The rest you probably know.

Her first hit record here in 1973, "Let Me Be There," won her a Grammy as Best Female Country Artist. She made her film debut here in 1978 with "Grease" and made her second film, "Xanadu," a flop, in 1980.



Olivia Newton-John

Because "Xanadu" was such a bomb ("I think I knew it was going to be while we were making it," she says, "but at that point, I couldn't do anything about it"), she wanted to be particularly careful about what film to go into next, so she's waited.

Now, later this spring, the 34-year-old Newton-John should start filming a romantic comedy, "Second Chance" with John Travolta. Then, perhaps she'll get to another project that's been on the boards for awhile — "Kangaroo," an adaptation of a D.H. Lawrence novel in which she would play a Sydney housewife in the 1920s opposite actor Bryan Brown. Otherwise, no new specials or albums planned at this point.

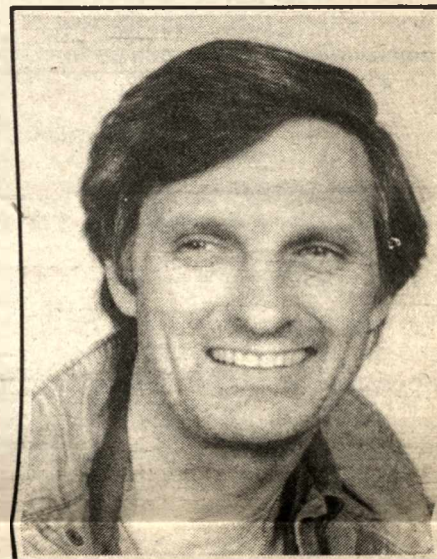
THIS WEEK'S MARLON BRANDO MOVIE FEE AWARD:

Sean Connery, who, fresh from earning his \$5 million fee for his new James Bond film "Never Say Never Again," stopped off in Marseilles to put in an appearance in the film-in-production "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight." He played the Green Knight, but obviously didn't take that much time doing it: six days, \$1 million.

Q. With the end of "M.A.S.H." I'm wondering what Alan Alda is going to do next. M. Ziegler, Torrington, Ct.

A. Don't worry, he plans to keep himself busy. First is a TV series which he's developing with producer Martin Bregman, based on his film "The Four Seasons," the story of the ups and downs in the friendship of three middle-aged couples. At this point, though, his participation will be strictly behind the cameras.

"The only member of the cast of the movie to repeat his role in the series should be Jack Weston," according to a spokesman for Alda. After that, he plans to act in two movies, which he's also planning to write and direct. Plots and titles haven't been decided yet.



Alan Alda

Q. Can you tell me how Debbie Allen got started in singing and dancing and what advice she would give anyone who wants to break into the business? Carmen Escobar, Decatur, Ill.

A. Debbie didn't originally plan to go into singing-dancing; she originally trained for ballet, joining the Houston Ballet at 14, and then, while studying classics at Howard University, the National Ballet School in Washington D.C.

While performing at the New London Dance Festival during her college years, however, she saw Alvin Ailey's modern dance troupe, realized there was more to dance than just classical ballet, and tried to leave college and join Ailey.

Her father, a dentist, wouldn't let her. But upon graduation, she moved to New York, tried out for chorus jobs in Broadway shows, got a few — in shows "Raisin" and "Purlie" — and gradually worked her way up into the starring roles in shows. Her "Anita" in "West Side Story" a few years back was praised as a real sizzler.

One thing also about Debbie is that she's earned a reputation as a bona fide trouper — a few years back, in "Purlie" in Philadelphia, she was hit by a car while going out for a sandwich during intermission and rushed to a hospital, was treated, and was back on stage by the finale.

That's basically how to sum up her advice: "My mother always told us we were talented," she says, "and with that talent, that there are no limits or boundaries. But it's more than that — you have to work for what you get, work hard for it and all the time. So take advantage of any theatrical situations to practice — community theater, church productions. Study as much as you possibly can, know where your strength is and then develop it, work."

Should one try to come to New York to study? "If you can," says Debbie, "get on a plane tonight."



Elizabeth Taylor

HOW TO SPEND MONEY, LET ME COUNT THE WAYS...

Grandmothers are notoriously extravagant when it comes to gifts for their grandchildren and Elizabeth Taylor is certainly no exception — her gifts are just, naturally, that much more extravagant.

The first gift to daughter Maria's daughter Elizabeth was a huge stuffed elephant which had to be placed facing east — a superstition guaranteed to ensure success, Taylor believes. Maria thought it was swell, but she asked whether, maybe, she could get more practical presents: a sweater, a coat, that type of thing.

So Elizabeth Senior has come up with a coat: a miniature, ankle-length dark ranch mink coat. Elizabeth Junior is just 16 weeks old.

Anything you'd like to know about prominent personalities? Write: Josie, SUNDAY WOMAN magazine, 235 E. 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017. Sorry, we can't answer any letters individually.

Clark, Dorothy. & History (VC) Fairs (VC)

in Vigo County

Community Affairs File

1852 was first of many fairs

T s JUL 29 1984

County fairs were held very early in Indiana, not the fairs we know now, but small affairs held at irregular intervals and in unusual locations.

The first notice of a fair in Vigo County appeared in the *Journal* of Oct. 15, 1852, when the judges for the various entries were named. Some of the exhibits to be judged were horses, cattle, jacks and mules, hogs, fruit, ploughing, domestic manufactures, chickens, agricultural improvements, grain, harness and coopers. Serving on the committee for arrangements were S.B. Gookins, Albert Lange and Robert S. McCabe.

This first county fair was in the courthouse square. The fruits and other items were exhibited and judged inside the courthouse, while the plowing match was held in the stubble field of Sylvester Sibey north of the Wabash & Erie Canal on the road running north from the Prairie House (now North Seventh Street).

The following year the fair was again in the courthouse square, but in 1854 it was in the grove south

Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

of S.B. Gookins residence. Two years later it was there again, in Farrington's grove north of where St. Anthony's Hospital used to be.

Trotting horse racing was introduced in Terre Haute and vicinity by the Vigo County Agricultural Society in 1858. The ground chosen for the track was the old Conover place, north of the city, on which a half-mile track was constructed.

Officers of the association at that time were F. Markle, president; T.P. Murray, vice president; E.B.

Allen, secretary; Henry Fairbanks, treasurer; and G.W. Bement, Fielding Shepherd, S. Wolf, Corey Barbour, Blackford Moffatt, R. Thompson and Milton Rogers, executive committee.

The ground north of town was rented by John Blake, who owned it at that time, and following the fair of 1860, the record is a blank until July 28, 1866, when the Vigo County Agricultural Society was reorganized. Winners in the speed ring that year were John Rector, C. Fairbanks, Joseph Kern and T.C. Swan.

Further research shows that on May 1, 1859, George W. Bement, Thomas P. Murray and Marvin M. Hickox, trustees of the fairgrounds of Vigo County, bought land on the west side of Seventh Street (then only a county road), 51 acres about opposite Collett Park from Demas Deming, trustee, for \$2,550.

On that date, 51 men agreed to pay these trustees \$10 down, \$21.20 a year from then on, and \$22.40 the next year. The land would be held by the trustees for seven years and they were

authorized to lease it to the Vigo County Agricultural Society.

This agreement was not filed until July 11, 1861, about the time the U.S. Army took over and quartered troops there during the Civil War. The stables and barns were filled with fresh straw, and recruits were bedded down there during their training period.

The fairs seem to have been discontinued for the duration, but after the war ended, records show meetings conducted there in 1865 and 1866. In 1865 John J. Blake acquired 42 acres from the trustees, while Hickox held three, and six others held one share each. This seems to be the beginning of the end.

In 1867 Terre Haute and Vigo County were selected as the site for the state fair to be in October. Work was begun on the grounds where the Indiana State University Memorial Stadium now stands. Trees and brush were cleared, and a half-mile racetrack was laid out. The contract for constructing the track was awarded to Harvey

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McMurtie, who reported pulling 16 stumps during his first day's work. On July 17 the track was declared completed and ready for racing.

On Sept. 11, the Agricultural Society announced it would receive applications for the purchase of exhibit space. Two weeks later, the *Express* announced that the new buildings for the state fair were nearly done, and on Oct. 3, the state fair opened to great crowds. The 1865 state fair at Fort Wayne reported attendance of 46,200. In 1866 at Indianapolis the attendance totaled only 38,000. Terre Haute boasted 55,214 paid admissions in 1867.

The new fairgrounds were owned by the county. The lease required that the V.C.A.S. should hold an annual fair there for the benefit of agriculture, horticulture and mechanical arts. The society had been incorporated Nov. 30, 1867, following the state fair, by 36 stockholders, 23 of whom bought 10 shares at \$25 each. The balance of the buyers took from one to five shares each. These stockholders

included businessmen, bankers, publishers, attorneys, doctors and a few farmers.

A \$10,000 business concern, it made a lease of the lands for 20 years. This was replaced by a new lease in 1884 which allowed the society to sublet the property to a special list of users.

The Trotting Association was granted a lease on March 10, 1885, for the use of the grounds in return for its building 40 box stalls in the spring of 1885, 25 more in 1886 and 15 more in 1887, a total of 80 stalls.

During the time of the lease, the association was to schedule a meeting or display of speed once or twice a year, in spring or fall, not to exceed six days each. The fall meeting was not to interfere with the fair.

The Trotting Association was to have exclusive use of the grounds during its meets and the joint use of the track, which it was to improve, for six weeks before its meets. By this time horse racing had become big business, and Terre Haute entered the Grand Circuit.

Clark, Dorothy Flowers, trees, dotted area Early settlers delighted in gardens

TS MAY 01 1988

The early garden of Dr. Edward Voorhees Ball near the Wabash River on what is now North First Street was described in the little book, "Story of a Hoosier Immigration," written by his descendants.

At the time of its planning it was supposed that the home site overlooking the river would be taken up by well-to-do families and a "select" neighborhood insured.

That was not to be, for the railroad right-of-way cut through the lovely garden, and freight trains traveled over the rails laid within 20 feet of Dr. Ball's imposing front door.

This pioneer garden featured rare shrubs and trees, dwarf fruit trees trained as pyramids, vertical and horizontal cordons, and other espaliers of the choicest European and native varieties of fruit.

Along with his Scottish gardener, Dr. Ball spent every possible spare moment working in his beloved garden. Many years later, family members could remember a serviceberry bush, known earlier as a "sarvus-berry," which bore dark red fruit like miniature apples the size of a large pea, with an unusual flavor. The children eagerly awaited the ripening fruit each year in June.

This bush was all that survived of the once ambitious garden of Dr. Ball, who was born in 1800. Across

Historically speaking



Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

the tracks, on the other side of First Street, where once had flourished trellises of pears, apples, nectarines and peaches, a row of ramshackle buildings cropped up, and there was nothing to indicate that a well-tended carriage drive had once swept to the front door, steps from which later descended directly upon the sidewalk.

It must have been heartbreaking for the planner to see all the beauty he had striven for wiped out by such sordid ugliness.

Condit's "History of Early Terre Haute" tells us that "when the earliest settler first looked upon this prairie, it presented a paradise of beauty. There were the gentians, fringed, the lobelias, clad in their delicate blue, and the cardinals,

blazing in their brilliant red.

"There were wild pinks, roses, phloxes, or sweet williams. Of these last it has been said, 'in beauty and every desirable feature they rivaled the products of the hot house.'

"In enumerating the wild flowers of the prairie, the goldenrod with its bright yellow plumes must not be forgotten; neither the blue bells, snow drops nor larkspurs."

The first settlers to come to Terre Haute from the South brought with them the Giant Spider Plant. In old Southern gardens this striking flower, with its long blue or purple stamens, spreading like slender spidery legs sprawling from the great frail, clawed petals, is still a favorite. The petals are white to rose-purple.

However, its clammy stem and strong odor are this showy flower's main drawbacks. It is giving place to its relative, the Rocky Mountain Bee Plant.

Our forefathers admired a curiosity like Houseleek that we now call Hen-and-Chickens, with its many little rooted offsets clustered around each rosette of fleshy leaves.

Great-grandfather liked to ignite with a spark from his flint the volatile oil given off by the stem and white flowers of Dittany, called

also Burning Bush or Gas Plant.

This feat could be performed only on still, humid summer evenings, the oil being thickest just below the flowers. The glossy, lemon-scented leaves are valuable for the back border. Some clumps have been known to outlive father, son, and grandson.

Modern gardeners grow the white or pink balsams, but the kinds they liked in earlier days were bold red and yellow balls of big double flowers. The Pennsylvania Dutch still grow them, along with portulacas and tub oleanders.

Fever few is mentioned as a New England garden plant so early that it must have arrived with the founders of Boston. At that time it was called Feather-fewe.

No cure for fevers, it was grown for its feathery leaves. A variety with yellow foliage is still used as a bedding plant, under the name of Golden Feather.

The seeds and hardy plants of the old-fashioned Feverfew were carried on the trips from the East and South made by the early pioneers to this part of the Wabash Valley. Most flower growers are not aware that the plant originated in Boston in colonial days. The flowers of my Feverfew remind me of white crocheted buttons.

Community Affairs File

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Old barn compared to Paradise

Ts JAN 02 1994

Clark, Dorothy

Henry Newby, father of Thomas T. Newby (author of booklet "Reminiscences of Thomas T. Newby 1916," Carthage, Rush Co., Ind.) bought farm land in 1833 on which a barn had been built in 1829 by Andrew Tharp. It was 40 feet long, 20 feet wide, and about 30 feet high to the ridge pole.

In the middle a partition was built to the top, and 20-foot logs were dove-tail spliced on this wall to make the long sides. However, the middle partition was the stable and passway wall up about 8 feet, then the joists over the stable and the passway extended 2 1/4 feet over the treading floor to the middle of the building, which was then built to the top like the ends. This gave more space for the treading floor or general purpose room.

The logs were selected from the best, and the straightest, easy-working timber, such as poplar, blue ash, red elm, and a few sugar trees, 12 to 18 inches in diameter, and 20 feet long.

Two sides of them were lined and hewn to make a perpendicular wall seven inches thick. Experts cut the saddles and notches to fit at the corners, and made dove-tail splices as the heavy timbers were put up.

A partition of logs across one end inside made a corn crib 4 1/2 feet wide, nearly 18 feet long, 8 or 9 feet high. At the other end was the horse stable about 12 by 10 feet, also built of logs inside, leaving the narrow pass and feedway by the stable, to the treading floor and general pur-

Historically speaking



Clark retired as the Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to the Tribune-Star

pose space. The passway had a small outside door with wooden hinges. A larger door on one side opened to the treading floor. Split timber for joists over the stable with rails laid across them, made the mow room.

The roof was of red oak clapboards 4 feet long, 6 to 8 inches wide, and hand-riven with frow and mallet, and put on "clapboard style," one row laid at the eaves, and another on it to break joints, and nailed through both ends. The next course was a similar double row with sufficient lap on the first to prevent leakage, and thus on up to the ridge or top pole.

When shingle roofs were used on buildings, the shingles were made of blue ash or poplar timber of suitable sized blocks 18 inches long. The blocks were rove up in rough boards with mallet and frow, and then dressed into "shingle shape" by hands with a drawing knife on a rude "shaving horse," that held them firmly, while being "shaved" or dressed. This was a

slow process, but they would outlast many times the "cut" or sawed shingles of later years.

The original floor was sawed by "sash-saw, water-power saw-mill."

Tharp's barn was quite a pretentious barn for its day, and was moved twice and drastically remodeled. But it was still in service in 1916 as a stock barn if somewhat dilapidated after 87 years.

A story was told about this barn soon after it was built. A preacher of Carthage would encourage his congregation to "reach the Batter World." In his attempt to describe Paradise, and trying to make a comparison in words they could all understand, he said, "Why, my friends, it is as nice as Tharp's barn."

In the early days, much valuable timber was burned or allowed to rot, for the pioneers needed the ground on which to grow corn, etc. The easiest and quickest way was to clear it off was to "deaden" the trees, and in two or three years to burn them.

Pioneers burned fine poplar and oak trees, which now would be of more value than the land. Log-rollings were conducted in early spring. Maybe 30 to 40 neighbors would work two or more days on the same farm. The logs were chopped or burned into convenient lengths for handling during the winter.

Each man took his own good "hand-spike" of seasoned hickory, ironwood or dogwood, that he always kept on hand for that purpose. Many tests of strength

were had on these occasions in lifting and carrying the logs to the "heaps."

A good yoke of oxen was sometimes used to drag up the heaviest logs. Many farmers used oxen to plough, and do other farm work.

No one thought of asking or receiving pay for his work, but expected neighbors to help at his log-rollings. A good wholesome dinner was always served by the women at the farm house. Often a man would help his neighbor every day, and burn his own "log heaps" at night.

This wholesale clearing of timber off the land had a profound effect on the whole country. During dry season fairly good crops were raised. Wet seasons were not good because of so much swampy land covered with decaying vegetation. These wet fields in the fall season were responsible for malaria.

After so much timber was cut, the winters were more variable than before. For example, the eve before Jan. 1, 1864, the temperature was 50 degrees and rainy, when the wind suddenly changed coming from the northwest bringing a blizzard with snow.

With the putting in of timber ditches, farmers improved their environment. A rail was placed on each side of the bottom of the ditch, with short pieces of good oak timber placed across them, then covered with dirt. They didn't last long, but good tile was soon plentiful, and most of the swamp land was drained and produced good crops.

Game birds plentiful in 1840s

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Historically Speaking

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Nearly all accounts of the Hoosier pioneers of the 1840s tell of the game birds in the "Big Woods." There were wild turkeys to shoot or trap. They weighed more than 20 pounds apiece and were easily sold for a dollar each — dressed. Wild turkeys were considered to be sweeter and better than tame turkeys.

Pheasants were numerous in the Big Woods, often heard "drumming" with their wings on logs in the spring time, sounding like distant thunder. Quails were plentiful on all farms.

In early spring, passenger pigeons were numerous and continued to be so until a few years after the Civil War. Great droves flew over and darkened the sunshine for several minutes.

When feeding on the ground in large numbers, often several thousand, they formed a line and had a way of hopping over those in front, so that in wooded land, where there was beech mast from the previous year, there was a great commotion of birds scratching and throwing leaves in the air.

When disturbed, they all rose and flew at once, and so many wings beat the air that it sounded like thunder. They had certain roosting places to which they returned every night. So many would collect at these places that they would break limbs off the trees. Many thousands of pigeons were killed with clubs at these roosting places.

The birds left in early morn-

ing in large or small droves, and they sometimes flew very high, generally south or some southerly direction, always returning to the roost at night. They have disappeared entirely from the United States.

Another bird not to be found now in the Wabash Valley is the raven, almost twice the size of a crow and so black that its feathers just glistened. It had a way of flying in a circle, getting higher and higher all the time until lost to sight, making its peculiar shrill cry.

Blue herons (cranes) lived and raised their young in the Big Woods, and continued to do so, changing from one woodland to another. They nested in the highest trees, the area often spoken of as "Cranesville."

Wild or wood ducks were quite common and numerous during wet seasons in the swampy parts of the Big Woods.

Crows were not as numerous then as now and did not do as much damage. Turkey buzzards often had nests in high stumps and raised their young. These areas were very smelly.

The big horned hooting owl was the night terror of the poultry yard. If you were alone in the woods, and heard him snap his bill, heard his "hoot-to-hoo," it would almost make the hair stand on end.

The woods were full of deer, panthers, black bears, wild cats or catamounts, gray squirrels were so abundant they were a great nuisance. They dug up planted corn in the spring, tore open shucks of roasting ears to eat the grain. After the corn was gathered, they ate the "heart" out of dry corn, causing great loss. Farmers paid five cents per head to hunters to shoot them. Fox squirrels were rare, but a few coal black ones were seen in some areas.

Ground hogs were rarely seen, but the weather came around all right without "forecasts of shadows." There were no skunks in some parts of Indiana. Raccoons, opossums, muskrat and "cotton tail" rabbits were plentiful.

The shrill bark of the red and gray foxes was heard in the spring. Missing poultry, pigs and lambs were charged up to them. Wolves were seen sometimes, and they also liked pigs and lambs.

There were some beavers, and remains of their huge dams were still evident in 1840-50. Minks and weasels were numerous and often played havoc in the poultry yards.

The long-tail blue rats were everywhere, and into everything. They were twice as large

as common mice, with very long tails. The large Norway rats caused the long-tailed blues to disappear.

Fish were abundant and could be caught at any time, and in any way — hooks and line, snare, gig, trap, net or seine-net on ice were favorite ways. The varieties were the same than as now, except no carp, which were brought from Germany by the U.S. government. Snakes were about the same then as now, not many poisonous.

Native American black bees were common, often kept in rude hives, sections of small hollow trees and called "Bee Gums." The gold banded bees were introduced in the early 1860s from Italy. They were larger, more vigorous, and better honey-gatherers, not so irritable nor as great stingers as the American black bees.

There were two kinds of hornets — the yellow hornet, now about extinct, and the bald hornet. Nests of the latter could be found in the late fall or early winter on trees, sometimes very high and often larger than a three-gallon bucket. The sting of this hornet was described as "terrible."

Note: Much of the information for the above was found in a booklet titled "Reminiscences" of Thomas T. Newby of Carthage in 1916. His father, Henry Newby, bought a farm in 1833. The booklet was rescued from a trash bucket by a janitor employed at the Kline Memorial Library at Casey, Ill.

Fruits were plentiful in 1800s

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In early times in Indiana, peaches were abundant. All were white seedlings, some of very fine quality, especially the freestones. However, there was no market for them.

Peaches were dried for home use, and there was some demand for them, but nothing was known of the canning business. Leftover bushels of peaches were fed to the hogs or allowed to rot on the ground.

Apples were not so plentiful, mostly seedlings of inferior quality, and no market for even the best. Fine Summer Queens were sold for 10 cents a bushel — if buyers could be found. Generally, grafted varieties were Vandevere Pippin, Rhode Island Greening, Yellow Bellflower, Rambo, Never Fail, American Golden Russet, Pennock, Wine-sap and Roman Stem.

Vandevere Pippin was the leading variety all over Indiana, and a favorite for apple dumplings.

Apples from seedlings were mostly sour and of poor quality. They were made into cider and vinegar, or fed to the stock.

Sweet apple cider was boiled, three barrels to one or less, and thickened with other apples, making apple butter. Sometimes the boiled cider was thickened with pumpkin, making pumpkin apple butter, a very satisfactory

change to go with corn dodgers and bacon.

There was some market for dried apples, but not much effort made to keep apples for winter use. A few Hoosiers had cellars, and others kept them in hills like some kept potatoes.

Wormy apples were unknown because there were no codling moths at that time. It was only necessary to plant trees, protect them from stock and gather the fruit.

Yankee grafters came along in the spring and were paid to graft a few trees. They used grafting wax, and most of the grafts grew and bore fruit. Some of the grafts proved to be pears; but the union of the graft with the apple tree was not perfect, and they died.

There were few Damson plums, and few wild ones of little value. The cherries were the sour varieties. There were wild blackberries and raspberries, a few currants and gooseberries, but the wild strawberries were so small they were almost worthless.

Early pioneers brought wild grape vines from North Carolina that were moderately good for pies. Native wild grapes were



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small and worthless (except for the birds and furry ones), but the vines often grew very large on bottom lands.

These were a foot in diameter, and half that size 50 to 60 feet above the ground where they branched off on the tree tops, 80 to 100 feet high, holding the vines nearly perpendicular. The only "tame grape" variety reported in Indiana was called Isabella.

In pioneer times, nearly every Hoosier community had a large cider mill and press. The following description was found in a family account book and diary:

"Andrew Tharp [of Rush County] built a cider mill with wooden rollers about 12 inches in diameter, and 18 inches long, with large, wooden journals on each end, and one journal three feet longer than the others and made square several inches down from the end.

"The rollers had large grooves cut in them exactly alike, and they fitted into each other like big cog-wheels. They were placed on a stout frame five or six feet high, with the journal fastened firmly in the frame so the cogs of the rollers would work snugly in each other, and were perpendicular, with the long journal up."

The short journaled roller was adjusted with wooden wedges so it could be kept the desired closeness to the other. A crooked pole was found to make the so-called "sweep" to pass over a man's head, when working about the mill, and the small end of which came near enough to the ground to hitch a horse.

A square hole was made at the center of gravity of the sweep to fit on the square end of the long roller, and it was placed and fastened in this position. A light pole of proper length was fastened to the sweep to which was tied the horse's bridle, so he would walk in a circle around the mill.

A hopper to put apples in was fitted to and fastened on the front part of the mill, so they fell into the cogs of the rollers as

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they turned around. A five- or six-barrel poplar trough was placed under the rollers to catch the pomace and cider.

If the apples were mellow, the pomace stuck to the rollers and made it necessary to scrape it off at the back part of the mill with a paddle. This was a job that often went "a begging" of frosty mornings.

The cider press was erected close to the mill, so the horse had space in going his rounds grinding the apples to pass between it and the pomace trough. A 2-foot oak post 10 feet long with an 8-by-10-inch mortise at the ground was set firmly, and a good piece of split oak 8 feet long extending equally each side of the post was fitted in this mortise.

Another mortise 4 by 18 inches, 4 feet higher up, was made in the post for the tenon of the big beam or lever to work in. Four heavy oak timbers were placed one end of each on the split oak cross-piece in the post, and the other ends on the ground extending in the direction the "beam" was to be, and then on these four or five other good sawed timbers were placed, and then a good 6-foot-square platform of sawed poplar made of two wide 4-inch boards fitted together.

A circular, concave groove 3 inches wide and about 2 inches deep was made in the platform all around near the edge, with an opening and tin spout on one side to run the cider into a tub.

A Hickory Elm "beam" 30 feet long and 2 feet in diameter had a tenon on it to fit closely in the 4-by-18-inch mortise in the post. Tharp made a Black Gum wooden screw, the first ever made in the county, for the other end of the beam. It was 12 inches long and 6 inches in diameter, 8 feet of which had an inch thread cut on it. A large perpendicular hole was made near the end of the beam, and the large wooden bur or tap for the screw was fastened there.

The screw, which had an iron point that fitted in a hole in a stone on the ground, was set up with the upper end in the wooden bur, which was fastened to the underside of the beam, so the screw could pass through the hole in the beam, and the iron point in place on the rock.

Two 3-by-4-inch mortises were cut at right angles to each other in the screw 3 feet from the ground, and 2-foot levers were put half-way through, making four arms with which to turn the screw to raise or lower

the beam.

Boards were put on these arms so that some might be put close around to screw to add more weight if needed. Two heavy guide posts were fixed firmly on each side of the beam so it could not fall, and the beam raised to the top of the screw.

After the apples had been ground, a 4-foot-square hoop made of boards 1 by 6 inches was placed on the platform inside the groove. Then some clean wheat straw, which had been prepared earlier for the cider press by holding the heads of some found bundles of wheat in a threshing machine until the wheat was thrashed out, then pulling them back, was dampened and placed thickly on this hoop, so that half of the length of the straw was inside the hoop, the other half left out.

The hoop was filled with pomace and the outer ends of the straw bent over the center, and a little pomace put on them to hold them in place. The hoop was raised up, and two sticks of a suitable length were placed on the edges on opposite sides of the first "cheese" to hold up the hoop so as to make another "cheese" in the same way. This process was continued until all the

pomace in the trough was on the press, sometimes five or six cheeses.

Wide, thick boards were put on the pile of "cheeses," and heavy square timbers of suitable length to reach across them, until it was built up to the beam and the screw was turned to let the weight on.

This pressed the pomace almost dry, but not as completely as the later hydraulic presses could. Clean coffee sacks were used later instead of the straw to form the "cheeses." On hot days, bees and yellow jackets were a terror to the cider maker as they swarmed about the press to get the cider.

As many young orchards came into bearing, this mill and press made a lot of cider. Each customer did practically all the work, and paid Tharp 10 cents a barrel for its use. It was a slow process, and the record was 10 barrels a day made by the Hollowell family of sturdy sons.

In those days, everybody drank sweet cider, and some drank "hard" cider. It was the only source of good vinegar, and much apple butter and some pumpkin-apple butter was made. Brass and copper kettles were used to boil the cider; iron kettles made it dark.